

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~tread on steer axle tires~~ tire for a heavy vehicle, the tire designed for a rolling direction and comprising a radial carcass reinforcement surmounted by a crown reinforcement and a tread, the tire including ~~means~~ a visual indicator indicating the rolling direction, the tread comprising ~~at least three ribs separated by grooves of generally circumferential orientation, two of said ribs forming the edges of the tread, and at least one rib~~ two of said ribs being intermediate ~~thereto~~ such two edge ribs, the at least one intermediate rib having a plurality of incisions of a width of less than 3 mm, a depth E when the tread is new and being of generally transverse orientation and substantially parallel to each other, wherein each incision has an angular relationship with a line extending perpendicular to the point where the incision intersects the tread's outer surface, the angular relationship varying along the incision wherein the angular relationship in an outer tread region extending from the outer surface to a depth of one-third E is zero degrees, and the angular relationship in an inner tread region at a depth greater than one-third E being greater than the angular relationship in the outer tread region, wherein a radially innermost point of each incision is located, relative to the indicated rolling direction of the tire, in front of the point of the incision located on the running surface of the tread when new, wherein each incision includes a generally concave side and a generally convex side, the generally concave side facing generally toward

the outer surface, and further wherein the two edge ribs are free of incisions having varying inclination.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~tread~~ tire according to claim 1, wherein an average inclination of the incisions is between 5° and 15°.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~tread~~ tire according to Claim 2, wherein the inclination of a portion of the incision at a depth greater than one-third E is between 5° and 25°.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~tread~~ tire according to Claim 2, wherein at ~~least one of the ribs is not provided with incisions of varying inclination,~~ the incisions are spaced in the circumferential direction with a pitch p which satisfies the following relationship:

$$0.5 \leq \frac{S_{ne}}{S_e} \cdot \frac{p}{H} \leq 4$$

wherein, S<sub>ne</sub> is the total outer surface area of the at least one rib not provided with incisions of varying inclination,

S<sub>e</sub> is the total of the outer surface area of the at least one rib provided with incisions of varying inclination, and

H is the average depth of the grooves of generally circumferential direction.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~tread~~ tire according to Claim 1, wherein the inclination of a portion of the incision at a depth greater than one-third E is between 5° and 25°.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~tread~~ tire according to claim 5, wherein at ~~least one of the ribs is not provided with incisions of varying inclination,~~ the incisions are spaced in the circumferential direction with a pitch p which satisfies the following relationship:

$$0.5 \leq \frac{S_{ne}}{S_e} \cdot \frac{p}{H} \leq 4$$

wherein,  $S_{ne}$  is the total outer surface area of the ~~at least one rib not provided with incisions of varying inclination~~ edge ribs,

$S_e$  is the total of the outer surface area of the ~~at least one rib provided with incisions of varying inclination~~ intermediate ribs, and

H is the average depth of the grooves of generally circumferential direction.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~tread~~ tire according to claim 1, wherein the incisions are arcuately shaped in the radial direction.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~tread~~ tire according to claim 1, wherein the incisions are formed with at least two rectilinear portions in the radial direction.

9. (Currently Amended) A ~~tread on steer axle tires~~ tire for a heavy vehicle, the tire designed for a rolling direction and comprising a radial carcass reinforcement surmounted by a crown reinforcement, and a tread, the tire having means indicating the rolling direction, the tread comprising ~~at least three~~ ribs separated by grooves of generally circumferential orientation, two of said ribs forming the edges of the tread, ~~at least one rib~~ two of said ribs being intermediate thereto, ~~the at least one~~ to such two ribs, each intermediate rib having a plurality of incisions of a width of less than 3 mm, a depth E when the tire is new and being of generally transverse orientation and substantially parallel to each other, wherein, each incision has a varying inclination, being oriented relative to a line perpendicular to an outer surface of the tread at a first angle of zero degrees from the outer surface to a depth of one-third E when the tread is new, and at a second angle greater than said first angle at a depth greater than one-third E, wherein, a radially innermost point of each incision is located, relative to the indicated rolling direction of the tire, in front of the point of the incision located on the ~~running~~ outer surface of the tread when new, wherein each incision includes a generally concave side and a generally convex side, the generally concave side facing generally toward the outer surface, and further wherein ~~at least one of the ribs is~~ the edge ribs are not provided with incisions of varying inclination, the incisions are spaced in the circumferential direction with a pitch p which satisfies the following relationship:

$$0.5 \leq \frac{S_{ne}}{S_e} \cdot \frac{p}{H} \leq 4$$

wherein,  $S_{ne}$  is the total outer surface ~~area~~ areas of the ~~at least one rib not~~  
~~provided with incisions of varying inclination~~ edge ribs,

$S_e$  is the total of the surface areas of the ~~one rib provided with incisions of~~  
~~varying inclination~~, intermediate ribs and

$H$  is the average depth of the grooves of generally circumferential direction.

10. (New) The tire according to claim 1 wherein the ~~at least one edge rib is~~  
edge ribs are not provided with any incisions.

11. (New) The tire according to claim 1 wherein the ~~at least one edge rib is~~  
edge ribs are not provided with any incisions.